



CONGRESSMAN DAN LUNGREN

LISTENING TO CALIFORNIA'S 3RD DISTRICT

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Dear Friend,

After nearly a year of rising fuel prices, yesterday the price of a barrel of oil spiked \$25, the largest one-day price increase in history, before settling at \$120 a barrel. With gas on average at \$3.80 a gallon in California and with the longer term rising global demand, the prospect of higher fuel prices still looms in our future. We need long term relief from high gasoline prices and the only way to achieve this is through energy independence.

To address this unacceptable burden imposed on consumers, congressional leadership on the energy issue is necessary. Many sources of American energy are available to us: offshore drilling, tar sands, shale oil, clean coal, drilling in ANWR, building more refineries, nuclear, wind, biofuel. But throughout most of the year the leadership of this Congress did not allow a vote on any bill that would increase American production of energy.



To add insult to injury, Congress left for a five week recess in August without any sense of responsibility to the American people. However, during that period of five weeks, Republicans were on the floor every day of the week asking that Speaker Pelosi bring the House back into session to vote on an energy bill. For five weeks, the Minority welcomed visiting tourists onto the House floor and encouraged them to contact their representatives about energy independence. For five weeks, Speaker Pelosi ignored our calls.

It was under this pressure from the American public and the Minority that the House leadership was forced to at least give the appearance of doing something. Thus, they brought the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899) to the House floor on September 16, 2008. In fact this legislative gambit turned out to be worse than doing nothing; if we had allowed the ban on outer-continental shelf (OCS) drilling to expire on September 30, 2008, the American people would have had access to all of the oil and gas resources which are currently off limits in OCS areas. In the short term this would affect energy prices by sending a signal to the futures market that there will be a greater production

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of oil in the years ahead. In the long term this would be a giant step in meeting our nation's future energy needs. Moreover, according to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), tapping these American energy reserves will generate \$800 billion in federal royalties and corporate income taxes. At a time when our nation is facing a sea of red ink, it should be recognized that the decision not to allow these areas to be opened up also has fiscal ramifications.

There are an estimated 17.84 billion barrels of oil in the OCS areas. Unfortunately, H.R. 6899 banned production on 88 percent of this untapped American oil. Also, since H.R. 6899 did not include any revenue sharing with the states, the opt-in requirements in the bill provide no incentives to allow drilling off their shores.

Ironically, Congress is scheduled to adjourn within the week. This should not happen until we do something serious to address the energy crisis facing our nation. We must take this opportunity to pass the American Energy Act (H.R. 6566) to increase American oil production before Congress adjourns and leaves for the year. It is time for us to convert to American energy.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress

Should Congress Adjourn?

Should Congress adjourn for the year before passing comprehensive energy legislation?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

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